



**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA
MINUTES – ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 04, 2024**



OPENING CEREMONY

The meeting was opened per ritual by Commandant Bill Miller at 0930.

Roll Call of Officers and Detachments:

A Quorum was present.

Department officers in attendance included:

Commandant Bill Miller
Sr. Vice Commandant Rex Delk
Jr. Vice Commandant Lisa Delk
Judge Advocate – Alton Coleman
Jr Past Commandant – Larry Heard
Adjutant/Paymaster LuAnn Miller
Asst. Adjutant/Paymaster Edward Gizara
Chaplain Mickey Edwards
Sgt at Arms Merrill Tindal
Sgt at Arms JR Millhorn

Dignitaries in attendance included:

Junior Past National Commandant – Johnny Baker
Southeast Division National Vice Commandant – Jerry Holt
Department of Alabama Commandant – Bill Reecer
Department of South Carolina Commandant – Helen Breen
Military Order of the Devil Dogs Sr. Vice Chief Devil Dog – PDD J.D. Jones
Military Order of the Devil Dogs Southeast Division Vice Chief Devil Dog – PDD Jim Stone
Military Order of the Devil Dogs Georgia Pack Leader – PDD Marty Habecker

Past Commandants:

Larry Heard	2020-2022
Randy Barnes	2016-2018
Ron Kirstatter	2014-2016

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

VSO – Mickey Edwards
Fallen Marines – Merrill Tindall
Young Marines – Jim Berres
Marine Corps JROTC – Jay Maxwell
Boy Scout Coordinator – Mickey Edwards
Disaster Relief – Larry Heard
Public Affairs – Alton Coleman
Newsletter – Excused
Web Sergeant – Edward Gizara
Compliance Officer – Alton Coleman
Historian – Terry Holland

DETACHMENTS IN ATTENDANCE INCLUDED:

Detachment 564 – Dog Company
Detachment 647 – LCpl Squire “Skip” Wells
Detachment 665 – Upper Chattahoochee
Detachment 783 – Unicoi
Detachment 952 – Georgia Devil Dog
Detachment 970 – Middle Georgia
Detachment 1020 – “Jake” Puryear
Detachment 1083 – Joseph Schmittou
Detachment 1188 – Gen Ray Davis - MOH
Detachment 1196 – Maj Stephen W Pless- MOH
Detachment 1260 – Maj Lawrence Des Jardines
Detachment 1325 – Sgt Clyde Tomason MOH
Detachment 1326 – West Chatham
Detachment 1333 – Waycross
Detachment 1373 – Central Georgia
Detachment 1402 – Columbus

MISSION STATEMENT:

Commandant Miller asked Sr. Vice Commandant Rex Delk to read the Mission Statement of the Marine Corps League.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Commandant Miller noted that the minutes of the January 20, 2024, quarterly meeting are available and have been posted to the Department Website. The minutes were accepted as amended.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

REPORT OF PAYMASTER:

The Paymaster’s report was read. Ashford Todd (783) moved to approve the Paymaster’s Report as submitted pending financial review. Barbara Brammer (1402) seconded the motion, and it was approved. Ron Griffin (1196) reported that Johnny Harris (1196) is in a bad way, keep him in your prayers.

REPORT OF MEMBERS SICKNESS OR IN DISTRESS:

Mickey Edward, Chaplain reported none at this time. (1196) just lost one of their members, Bob Johnson. Barbara Brammer (1402) advised that Leonard Turner, a 100-year-old WWII Veteran, is in recovery from pneumonia.

Presentation by the Eternal Few:

Brad Long of the Eternal Few LE FF Motorcycle Club made a brief presentation of how their club would like to work with veterans’ organizations.

Convention Committee 2024:

Ed Gizara (564) reported on the convention and how things were progressing. Everything was going extremely well. He further stated that his Detachment (564) will be committed to working with the 2025 Convention Detachment to assist in any way they can.

2025 Department Convention Proposal:

Terry Holland (1402) gave a presentation to host the 2025 Convention in Columbus, GA. They have picked a hotel, Doubletree by Hilton in Columbus, GA. Larry Heard (1196) made a motion to accept Columbus (1402) for the 2025 Convention. Ron Griffin (1196) seconded the motion. All approved, motion passed.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

Commandant:

Commandant Bill Miller has no report as he said everything he needed earlier.

Senior Vice Commandant:

Rex Delk spoke about the Commandants Council, there were 42 members present. The Commandant Council is an annual meeting of all Detachment Commandants. We all come together to advise the board on what they want to see and do for the next year. Rex continued with how we are going to grow and improve the face of the Department. There is a new web page, everyone should check it out. Also, about community involvement and increased detachment involvement. Currently have 23 Detachments, with a total of 1221 members, which is a 5% growth. Currently, we have 164 members delinquent, and we need to reach out to them and bring that number down. This year one Detachment (1312) was closed for not being compliant. He told the detachments to ensure that they get their ROI's in, file their IRS 990 and SOS Registrations filed. Someone from the board will be reaching out to make sure that you are in compliance. Currently, there are 4 Young Marines with 1 new one coming in. We need to support the Young Marines. There were 9 Boy Scout programs present at the meeting, 10 Units were doing Toys for Tots, 8 were doing funeral honors out of their detachments, and 9 were doing the Fallen Marine program. Re spoke about being in sales, and how that can work to bring new members in. That is how we will bring new members in, Sell the Marine Corps League.

Junior Vice Commandant:

Lisa Delk reported that we had a bad year, we had to close one detachment. We have begun to start a new detachment: it will be an At-Large Detachment for the Department.

Judge Advocate:

Alton Coleman reported that the Department had two Chapter 9, both were the same, but they had to refile due to the changing of the National JA. Alton stated that he has enjoyed working with everyone and if he is Elected to Jr. Vice Commandant, he will continue to work just as hard. The Department is looking to create a new Retention Committee, and the goal is to work with each detachment in recruiting and retention.

Sgt-At-Arms:

Merril Tindall reported that on February 4th, he was contacted by Amvets of Waycross, GA to see if the MCL could provide an Honor Guard to honor soldiers who have passed away. The next day they were at the middle school to act as Ushers for the Service and were asked to go ahead of the procession to the cemetery to set things up. The family was so impressed with the Marines that were in attendance.

Chaplain:

Mickey Edwards reported that there have been 8 member deaths since our last meeting. He also stated that detachments need to be diligent and turn in their NOD promptly.

Commandant Bill Miller asked all to stand in silence for our fallen members. Mickey Edwards (1402) to read off the names of each member who has passed in the last 12 months. Charlie M Haynie, Gerald Edwards, Raiford Smith, Jack Willis, Donald A Dally, Dalton Hammock, Gilbert O Stokes, Robert M Donaldson, & Robert Johnson.

Adjutant/Paymaster: No Report

Assistant Adjutant/Paymaster: No Report.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

By-Laws Committee: Alton Coleman reported that the By-Laws committee did not meet timelines as outlined in Section 210 Part D Sub-Part 4A. Two proposed amendments were not sent out. He consulted with the National Jr. Vice Commandant and the National Commandant, Johnny Backer to determine how to resolve this issue so that the proposed amendments could be heard on the floor. Commandant Bill Miller sought a motion to suspend the By-Laws that pertain to the deadline for submission of the By-Laws. Larry Heard (1196) made a motion to suspend Section 210 Part D Sub-Part 4A. Philip Barnes (1196) seconded the motion. Commandant Miller explained that if they did not suspend this section of the By-Laws, they would not be able to present the two amendments. Commandant Miller asked by a show of hands for approval and then disapproval. The motion passed by more than a 2/3rd vote.

Alton Coleman read the First Amendment:

Section 220 Duties of Appointed Officers, Part b Paymaster, Sub-Section 3 states:

Shall receive transmittals from all Detachments within the Department and review the content of such transmittals to ensure the completeness and accuracy. If accurate, will sign off on the Department section; forward the transmittal and funds to National Headquarters. If the transmittal is incorrect, the Paymaster will return transmittal to the Detachment with corrections to be made. Such action shall occur not more than five (5) working days from receipt of data. Preferably each check shall contain two (2) signatures.

The recommendation is that the last sentence of that paragraph be stricken from the By-Laws.

The By-Law Committee recommended "Not to approve the Amendment" with the rationale being that the last sentence states "Preferably". It does not say "Shall", it is not a requirement, it is something the Department would like to see happen as a means of checks and balances.

Commandant Miller asked for a Motion to accept the By-Laws Committee recommendation "Not" to approve the amendment. Larry Heard (1196) made a motion to accept the By-Laws Committee's recommendation. Harry McCann (1196) seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion the recommendation of the By-Laws committee was approved, Motion passed.

The second proposed amendment refers to Section 100 Awards, Sub-Section "g" Detachment Colors and Streamers, Part 2, it reads:

(2) Criterion: To receive this award, a Detachment must bring its Detachment Colors to the Business Meeting and present them to the Department Sgt.-at-Arms or his representative prior to or during the Business Meeting. The Detachment Colors need not be elaborate nor of any certain minimum size.

The Amendment is for a change of wording in Part 2,

(2) Criterion: To receive this award, a Detachment must, (a) be in good standing and (b) must display it's Marine Corps League Detachment colors to the business meeting, including that portion of the Business Meeting held in conjunction with the Banquet. The Detachment Colors need not be elaborate nor of any certain minimum size.

In Part 3, it reads:

(3) Determination: The Department Sergeant-at-Arms will check each Detachment and have the person receiving the Streamer for his/her Detachment sign an Issue Sheet (Enclosure 2). The Department Sergeant-at-Arms is responsible for ordering the Streamers no later than March 15th of the Convention year. The Department Paymaster will provide payment for the Streamers.

The Amendment would be to add the wording,

(3) Determination: The Department Sergeant-at-Arms will check each receiving Detachment is in "good standing" by checking them according to a list provided by the Paymaster and have the person receiving the Streamer for his/her Detachment sign an Issue Sheet (Enclosure 2). The Department Sergeant-at-

Arms is responsible for ordering the Streamers no later than March 15th of the Convention year. The Department Paymaster will provide payment for the Streamers.

In Part 4, it reads:

(4) Presentation: The Streamer will be presented to the individual when he/she presents the Detachment Colors to the Sergeant-at-Arms or his/her representative.

The Amended wording would be:

(4) Presentation: The Streamer will be presented to the Detachment as appropriate relative to other awards.

The By-Law committee recommended "Acceptance of this Amendment".

Commandant Miller asked for a Motion to Accept the By-Laws Committee recommendation. Ashford Todd made a motion to accept the By-Laws Committee's recommendation. Doug Tasse (647) seconded the motion. Commandant Miller asked if there was any discussion. After much discussion, a vote was called, and the motion passed.

Commandant Miller asked for a motion to reinstate the By-Law. Larry Heard (1196) made a motion to reinstate Section 210 Part D Sub-Part 4A. Harry McCann (1196) Seconded the motion. By a show of hands, the motion passed.

Credentials Committee:

Alton Coleman (783) read off the voting strength for each detachment present.

Financial Review Committee:

Larry Heard (1196) reported that LuAnn Miller has again done a superb job as Paymaster and gathered all documents to be prepared for the annual audit. He stated that once again, the audit found no irregularities or issues.

Veteran Service Officer:

No Report

Fallen Marines:

Jim Murphy (1373) stated he has no contact information for the Fallen marine Coordinator at the Department level. He stated that he has just completed their 25th Fallen Marine Presentation and has another coming up. Commandant Bill Miller asked the Department's Fallen Marine Coordinator to stand so that everyone knew who the Dept Coordinator was.

Marine for Life:

No Report

Marine Corps JROTC:

No Report

Young Marines:

Jim Berres (1373) reported that 2000 community service hours have been reported. He also stated that they have two units in the beginning stages of forming and could use help.

Marine for Life:

No Report

Boy Scout Coordinator:

Mickey Edwards (1402) reported that he pulled a report per the Commandant's request of Detachments that have turned in reports on Eagle Courts of Honor. Only 5 or 6 Detachments have turned anything in over the past six months. Scouting is important and we need to do a better job. Bill Miller asked each detachment if they have a Scouting Coordinator and how many Eagle Courts of Honor they have been to. Ensure that you get reports on Courts of Honor to Mickey Edwards (1402).

Disaster Relief:

No Report

Historian:

No Report

Unfinished Business:

Barbara Brammer (1402) asked if the Department still has districts. Bill Miller responded that the Department is reworking the boundaries. Lisa Delk added that this is due to some Detachment closures which leaves some Detachments out there by themselves. Rex Delk said that when he closed all those Detachments the districts became skewed. But where we are now with the strength of the Detachments, we can begin redistricting.

Bill Miller brought up the idea that due to the distance between some Detachments, we might think about having an Assistant District Vice so the workload can be split between them.

Old Business:

New Business:

Commandant Bill Miller advised the membership that Johnny Baker is requesting support from detachments for the Marine Corps League Foundation. He asked for anyone to make a motion for support of the Foundation. Larry Heard (1196) made the motion to donate \$100 to the Marine Corps Foundations. Tony Gasper (647) seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

Nominations For 2024-2025 Officers:

Commandant Miller asked those members running for office to vacate the meeting. Commandant Miller asked if there were any nominations for Department Commandant.

Larry Heard (1196) made a motion to elect Rex Delk (1196) for the Position of Department Commandant. Bill Miller asked the question if there were any other nominations for Department Commandant 3 times. Hearing none, the Paymaster/Adjutant cast 1 unanimous vote for Rex Delk as Department Commandant.

Sr Vice Commandant was opened for nominations. Randy Barnes (1196) nominated Lisa Delk (1196). Hearing no other nominations x 3, 1 Unanimous vote was cast for Lisa Delk as Sr. Vice Commandant.

Jr Vice Commandant was opened for nominations. Ashford Todd (783) nominated Alton Coleman (783) for the position of Jr. Vice Commandant. Hearing no other nominations x 3, 1 Unanimous vote was cast for Ashford Todd as Jr Vice Commandant.

Judge Advocate was opened for nominations. Randy Barnes (1196) nominated Marty Habecker (1373) for the position of Judge Advocate. Hearing no other nominations x 3, 1 Unanimous vote was cast for Marty Habecker as Judge Advocate.

Commandant Miller congratulated the Officers for 2024-2025.

Presentations:

Commandant Miller called Sgt-At-Arms to the front and presented him with the Southeast Division Conference streamer to be placed on the Department League Flag.

A representative from Detachment 1188 General Ray Davis – MOH was called to the front and presented with the National Junior Vice Commandant Citation for obtaining a membership of 106.92%

A representative for Detachment 1083, Joseph Schmittou was called up and presented with the National Junior Vice Commandant Citation for obtaining a membership of 106.72%. Commandant Miller also presented Det 1083 with the Meritorious Unit Commendation Department Level. Rex Delk was called up by the Commandant and presented with the Marine Corps League Meritorious Commendation Individual.

Others presented with the Marine Corps League Meritorious Commendation Individual are, Lisa Delk (1196), Alton (Doc) Coleman (783), Larry Heard (1196), LuAnn Miller (1196), Edward Gizara (564), Mickey Edwards (1402), Merrill (Doc) Tindall (1333), J.R. Millhorn (1333), Jay Maxwell (1325), Terry Holland (1402), Jim Berres (1373).

Commandant Miller called Attention to Orders: J.C. Murphy (1373) Department Scouting Coordinator, and Detachment JROTC Coordinator was called front and center, Commandant Miller awarded James C. Murphy the Marine Corps League Distinguished Service Award. James was also presented with an engraved Marine Corps K-Bar.

Good of the League:

Tony Gasper (647) reminded members of the Marine Corps Coordinating Council of Georgia to help Marines and award scholarships.

Merrill Tindall reminded everyone of the Silent Auction and that if they bid, ensure they put their phone number.

Announcements:

Commandant Miller wanted to thank all the members of the Department for their support and friendship over the past 14 years.

Department of Alabama Convention is in Sheffield, Alabama June 21-23.

Marine Corps League National Convention is in Rancho Mirage, California August 12-16.

Recess:

Sgt-At-Arms put the Department into recess at 12:15. He will resume the Business meeting at the Banquet (2030).

After the Banquet Dinner, Sgt-At-Arms reopened the Business meeting at 2030.

Commandant greeted our Distinguished Guests and Guests of Honor. Rex Delk presented Commandant Bill Miller, and Paymaster LuAnn Miller with gifts for their outstanding service to the Detachments, Department, and the Marine Corps League.

The new Department Officers were installed by Jr Past National Commandant Johnny Baker, the Officers for the 2024/2025 year are:

Commandant	Rex Delk
Sr. Vice Commandant	Lisa Delk
Jr. Vice Commandant	Alton Coleman
Judge Advocate	Marty Habecker
Jr. Past Commandant	Larry Heard
Adjutant/Paymaster	Edward Gizara
Chaplain	Mickey Edwards
Sgt-At-Arms	Merrill Tindall
	Walter Millhorn

CLOSING CEREMONY:

There being no further business, the Quarterly Meeting was closed by Commandant Rex Delk per the Ritual Manual at 21:30.

Submitted by:
Edward Gizara
Dept of GA Paymaster